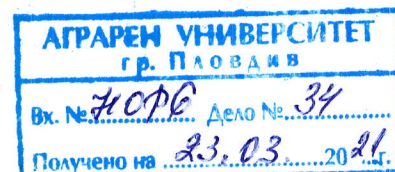




TRAKIA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

STANDPOINT



Regarding the competition for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding", announced in SN No. 98/17.11.2020, with candidate Chief Assist. Prof. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov PhD.

by **Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Panayotov Panayotov PhD** - Lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture, Trakia University - Stara Zagora, in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional field 6.3 Animal Husbandry, Scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding", determined according to Order № RD - 16-49/22.01.2021 of the Rector of Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the Scientific Jury.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov PhD was born on 22. 05. 1976. In 1990-1994 he graduated from the High School of Life Sciences and Mathematics "Konstantin Velichkov" - Pazardzhik. In 2000 he graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Trakia University – Stara Zagora town, Veterinary Medicine – Master degree. From 2002-2009 he was a full-time PhD student in the scientific speciality "Sheep and Goat Farming" at the Department of "Animal Sciences" at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. After winning a competition in March 2005, he was appointed Assistant in Animal Husbandry in the department. From 2007 to 2009 he was a senior assistant, and from October 2009 to the present he is Chief Assistant Professor in the same department. In 2009 defended a dissertation on the topic: "Study on the mother ability of the White and Patched face Maritza sheeps and some characteristics of their meat productivity" and acquired the educational scientific degree "PhD" in the scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding".

2. General description of the scientific production

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov participated with a production of 33 scientific works, grouped as follows:

- Dissertation work for awarding "PhD" degree - 1 issue.
- Scientific papers related to PhD dissertation - 4 issues.
- Published book based on the defended PhD dissertation - 1 issue.
- Articles in referred and indexed scientific journals - 17 issues.
- Articles and reports in proceeding books and unreferred journals - 10 issues.

The personal participation of Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov PhD in these 33 works is illustrated by the fact that in 18 works (55%) he is a leading author and in 6 he is self-dependent author. In 13 works he is second and only in 2 works he is a third and fourth author.

He has participated with a total of 15 scientific papers in scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad, incl. with 2 scientific reports at congresses abroad and with 12 scientific reports and 1 poster in scientific forums with international participation in Bulgaria.

3. Teaching activity

The candidate for the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor" Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov PhD has 15 years of teaching experience. In addition to the practical classes he teaches in the main disciplines "Sheep and Goat breeding" and "Animal husbandry", he also conducts lectures and exercises in a number of elective and compulsory disciplines, which students choose and attend with great interest.

Nationwide, Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov PhD has established himself as one of the leading specialists in Bulgaria in the field of the cynology. He is well known as an organizer and judge of a number of cynology exhibitions and events at national and regional level.

Study employment of the candidate

From the attached reference for the academic study employment of the candidate for the last 5 years it can be seen that he significantly exceeds the annual norms for classroom and extracurricular employment accepted at the Agricultural University. During this period, he conducted a total of 2808.8 hours or an average of 562 hours per year (200 hours above the norm).

Under his tutorship, 11 Diploma theses were developed, successfully defended and received high evaluations.

Published study materials

Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov PhD is a co-author of 1 issue – handbook in "Sheep and Goat breeding".

Developed study programs

The candidate has developed and accepted four study programs for disciplines set in the study plans in various bachelor courses at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv: "Cynology", "Application of a Livestock guardian dogs and Herding dogs", "Fundamentals of biological animal husbandry" and "Pastoralism".

4. Scientific research activity

The scientific production with which Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov PhD participates in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", presented with scientometric indicators shows that the candidate in each group of indicators (reflected in the table) meets or exceeds the minimum national requirements for this position and forms a total of **632,32** points (at the standard - 400 points).

Group of indicators	Necessary points	Received
A) Defensive dissertation for the award of "PhD" degree	50	50
B) - 10 scientific publications (replacing the Habilitation Work - monograph) in publications that are referred and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information.	100	216
C) - Published book based on a defended dissertation for the award of "PhD" degree; - 6 scientific articles published in scientific journals, referred and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information; - 10 articles and reports published in unreferred journals with scientific review;	200	226,32 40 150 36,32
D) - There are 4 citations (of 4 scientific papers) in scientific journals, referred and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information;	50	50
E) - 2 participations each in international projects and in national educational projects are presented; - Handbook in "Sheep and Goat farming"		80 70 10
Total number of points	400	632,32

Field of publication

The scientific works with which Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov PhD participates in the competition contain summaries, results and conclusions that have their contribution in the field of Sheep and Goat breeding.

Participation in research projects

During the period 2005-2021, Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Vuchkov PhD manages and participates in a total of 8 projects, of which 4 scientific research at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, 2 national and 2 international.

Citing and referring of the scientific research

The candidate for Associate Professor submitted a reference for only 4 cited articles, two of which are cited in one article in Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science by Tanchev et al., 2015, first one by Penkov et al., 2019 and second one by Anev et al., 2009, without listing all the authors of the teams, which I think is not correct.

5. Remarks and recommendations

1. Regarding the small number of the mentioned citations, my question to the candidate is: "Are these all the citations of your articles or have you given only as many as you need to reach the required in the minimum national requirements - 50 points?"

2. The contributions presented are quite extensive and descriptive, especially the "Overall Scientific Contribution". They could be shorter, more specific and distinguish the individual scientific merits of the candidate in the fields in which he worked.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I consider that Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov PhD meets the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulation for the application of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv for its application. He covers the minimum national requirements by groups of indicators for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine" and professional field 6.3. "Animal husbandry"

All this gives me reason to **positively evaluate** its overall activity and to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote **positively** and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Chief Asst. Prof. Atanas Spasov Vuchkov PhD for "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Sheep and Goat breeding".

Date: 19.03.2021

Stara Zagora town

Standpoint prepared by: 

(Assoc. Prof. D. Panayotov PhD)